

Media consolidation is clearly a danger to democracy. Case in point: when Sinclair Broadcasting decides to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election, there is clear and present danger of abuse of power. It is one thing to buy a ticket to a movie, it is another to have the public's airwaves used to dishonor a decorated veteran, and candidate for the Presidency.

Sinclair Broadcasting is obligated BY LAW to serve the public interest. But when large corporations can control the airwaves, their focus is on money and power, not the public. Public airwaves were meant to provide "real" people serving local news about substantive issues that matter to our local communities. We are tired of getting news dribble produced at a station far, far away from our backyards.

Sinclair's abuse of power indicates now more than ever that we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. The license renewal process must be changes dramatically...it is a farce that it is nothing more than a returned postcard. It is time for a change. Thank you for your consideration.